BOOKS OF INTEREST SEEN IN REVIEW AND COMMENT

Mr. John Masefield,

Author of "The Old Front

Line" (Macmillan Co.), has

THE BOOK OF THE WEEK.

THE SUPERNATURAL IN MODERN ENGLISH FICTION. By Derothy Scarborough, Ph. D. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

Here is an admirable book for a restricted public. So the first point of efficien must be to point out the nature of that restriction, in order that the book may fairly find those readers for whom it is meant and by show it will be enjoyed. It is a book about books; intended therefore for modesh people, for the student and the lover of literature, the folk of mearies and colleges in general for all that class of readers who are alreedy well and widely read. If you have a fair present memory of your English classics from Scott to Kipling, if the Gothic Novel means a definite doing to you, if you are not above an innocent pleasure in folklore and the menture of the mysterious, nor beneath appreciating a veiled quotation or the subtle irony of a clever phrase, then this book is for you.

Primarily it is, as its title and the degree of the author suggest, a work of scholarship, a study of the source and development of the supernatural element in consciously artistic literature; scholarly enough indeed, and based upon an exhaustive survey of the available material. But there the wonder ns. What business has a work of sheer scholarship to be the express of a wise and merry personality, to be written after this fashion, with humor and irony and colloquial eleverness of phrase, and an almost rollicking delight in the subject running through it all, like the tone of a happy worker These things are not of the deak and the dusty tome, they smell not of the student's lamp. What has sunshine to do with scholarship? Or by what alchemy does this lady distil such honest pleasure from the analysis of a thousand ghostly narratives? First of all, she must thoroughly enjoy them as ever Traddles did the skeletons upon his slate. and, furthermore, she must be a very considerable person. The genus on is not unknown to us-by that name do the baser sort profanely lenote the learned lady doctors of the schools. But Miss Scarborough, by the internal evidence of her book-is it not also her thesis?-comes near upon being sui generis.

Soberly enough, the book is a critical analysis of the whole machinery of sts. elves' dreams, magic, mythology and the like in the English fiction of the last two centuries, made pleasant reading by both its spirit and its style. There is an introductory chapter on the Gothic romance and another later influences or sources of supernatural ideas, chiefly foreign. These two chapters and the concluding one are beyond reasonable expectation scholarly and delightful. The interim is taken up by discussion of the mystic material in the fiction of the nineteenth century, classified by chapters as Modern Ghosts, the Devil and His Allies, Supernatural Life, Folk Tales and Supernatural Science. And it is here that the book shows what the best must somewhere show, its share of failure. It is a particularly irritating kind of failure, too; the discussion degenerates for pages on end into a mere cataloguing of instances, dry and banal and not even accurately cited. It is as if the author, having set down with infectious enjoyment her inferences and her critical analysis of the data in question, found herself now confronted with the ungrateful task of sorting and listing the data selves, which having mentally squeezed dry she desired only to be done with so soon as might be; so that she went about the task of particularising them in a mood of weary disgust, careless of even common accuracy in the ofreading. To misquote Kipling's titles, to speak of the heroine of Forest Lovers as Iscult le Desireuse, to call Unorna Coma and Mulvaney Mulvany-this sort of thing occurs so often as to be unpardonable by reason of its very pettiness. Nor does it seem possible that the woman who obs of ghosts that they are the only permanent denizens of this world, and of the Devil that man has created him in his own image, could so completely miss the point of The Turn of the Screw or The Dog Harvey or The Crock Perhaps the trouble is with the classification, and to have constructed by authors and their methods of treating the supernatural material uld have given better results than this mere sorting of spectres. Ceris a wide gulf between Miss Scarborough's best work and her worst, and the discriminating question seems to be simply whether she is for the time being herself interested or bored with it.

She is interested most of the time, and interesting; with an almost motherly interest in normal, ordinary spooks, and a connoisseur's joyful evidity to pounce upon some rare exotic specimen. The mere choice of subject was of course something; for not every candidate for a degree would hit upon one so fertile in romantic possibilities. But then one reflects with horror what dreary stuff the Teutonic type of scholarship would have made of such a theme as this. We may be glad that it was Miss Scarborough who chose it for her own. If she nods now and then, surely even a ghost hunter may grow drowsy. Her errors are too obvious to mislead. She has made something useful for the scholar and something enjoyable for the lover of strange, uncanny tales. And her book is good original research and

Miffin Company.) \$2.75.

This book is the first publication. In ter from Muir's own journal. There complete form, of John Muir's notes seems to have been some reason for keeping back a story of such interest all these years. Muir's observations gigal formations of the Siberian and visited, does not exactly tally with the does not exactly tempt to discover and rescue if possi-

By John Mair. Edited by Will- I shed until now. The present volume includes all the material used in the THE SHADOW ON THE STONE. iam Frederick Bade. (Houghton Bulletin letters and in the reports and adds much more of a personal characexploration in 1881. The famous nat- of the hitherto unknown Wrangell wallst had long wished to study the Land, as well as of other localities had devoted his entire life in material- sparrow, and the story of the remark-Thomas Corwin, when that vessel was scientific world that as there was no concerned with material matters of strange things and people always is. sent into northern waters in the at- trained man of science on the Rodgers, profit and loss. Built up with clean But finding out new and unknown the Mount Wollaston and the Vigilant. softened a certain acerbity that seems Another reason for the expedition was to have pervaded the air of official to find the traces of the lost De Long circles after the return of both ships, party and their ship, the Jeannette. It has been deemed safe and wise to The Corwin set out early in the spring give the world this charmingly chatty of 1881, and Muir embodied some ac- and intimate, and yet so scientifically count of the journey and his scientific valuable story in its famous author's prestigations in a series of letters to own words. Even such readers as are the San Francisco Evening Bulletin, not interested in statements of exact as well as in several Government re- science will find enjoyment in this ports. But the completed narrative, virile narrative of journeys amid the

PERIODICALS IN WAR TIME

the vital questions of the day tude is the Literary Digest, which his share at least to ease its burder the execution of the enormous task.

with an income of \$1,000 or more, erary Digest, which owing to its live and to every married man with an methods and interesting contents is become of \$2,000 or more, to take building up an immense circulation.

The Government has no more useful | prompt steps to make report to the sidens in keeping before the Government. "The Treasury Department to already laboring under the extraordinary difficulties imposed by some of our big periodicals. A the war. By giving it his hearty cosoffing exponent of this patriotic atti- operation each citizen will be doing publishes to-day a striking article and to lighten the heavy responsibilities of the new Commissioner of Instating the way in which every citi- ternal Revenue, who, many say, is the on can support the Government in most able and most efficient aid that this important branch of the Govern

The subject of the article is an ment has ever had." This is only a small part of the eloardest call to every unmarried man quent argument advanced by the Lif-

War Lord Fragments Bruce Bairnsfather

Captain Beirnsfather's skotches from the front set Il England chuckling when they first appeared, and mot with as hearty a welcome from Americans rock with laughter, amused and d the people at home, even made German sers forget to "strafe." terness out of war.

A now, cheaper edition containing over page plates and many smaller illustrations.

Now York

Empire \$1.78 87 mail \$1.90

the

perils of the North on unknown shores. Some delicious bits of personal de-scription of the Aleutian natives are most amusing, notably the word por-trait of the savage crator Jarocchah, who could not stop orating even to eat. Also the description of an Eskimo bedroom, a "furry sanctum," with walls, ceiling and floor of fur, sounds mighty good just at the moment these lines are being written. The deep hatred of the lust for killing which filled the soul of Muir, the lover of all nature, finds vent in one or very human little outbursts, such as the following:

"In nothing does man, with his grand notions of heaven and charity. show forth his innate, lowbred wild animalism more clearly than in his treatment of his brother beasts there is no recognition of rights, only murder in one form or another.

THE HOUSE OF LYME. By Lady Newton. (New York, G. P. Putmam's Sons.) \$6.50.

Now that the old order is changing everywhere, and possibly more though less noisily) in England than elsewhere, this chronicle of an old family and a grand old house comes with a double value. What is told here inan intimate personal history of the acteristic of so much which will never be again that the handsome volume with its wealth of illustrations and of the Legh family who took an important part in the political and social life of their various generations. The begun in 1465, and built and rebuilt cept for interior concessions made to changing ideas of personal comfort in living. Indeed Lady Newton's book, in letters, household accounts, gives a Mora, an island in the Baltie Sea, in picture of the conditions of living in leased from the Swedish Government, earlier days even for a great and rich | while architects and workmen are enfamily of landowners, which would gaged. In the meantime Ambrone Dale make an artisan of to-day shiver and rejoice that he was born in a more is forced to tell him of the radium

rosaic but comfortable age. discovery of an old packet of letters cern and tries to force Niel to consent hopes it may find at least a small cir- gle of wills, and although Niel wins But the work has been so well done dies in result of a subsequent accident. that it will find many readers to enjoy But Dale, with Pauline Paget, Farr's the word portraits of men and women godchild, and several other brokenof past days, shown us in a simple so much more interesting to learn how people lived in those far-off days if we of special individuals. When we read ling expenses or Lady Legh's household diary we remember the details THE CRUISE OF THE CORWIN. in popular form, has never been pub- as impersonal historical fact.

> By Margaerite Bryant. (Duffield & Co.) \$1.35.

The schemes of idealists rarely suc- appealing "nature study from a new ced because they have to be finan-cially supported by "successful busi-ness men." Niel Meredith, a dreamer, for a rehabilitation of the English

returned to this country and is busy on a volume of poems.

served place on the library shelf of history. The history of England forms a colorful background for the history of the Library shelf of the history on them with contempt, is a psychic enthusiastic followers, the foremost of exploration of great interest and of them his best friend. Ambrose Dale, a much value for our own character. young man with a keen business sense. How many of us know that the wild fine old house known as Lyme Park, but no money, and passionately atturkey of America, the immediate one of England's show places, which tached to him. In talking over the ancestor of our own home bird is a housed them for so long was, we hear, plans Niel's earnestness attracts a "leader among classical dancers? financier, James Farr, who offers to And that the turkey hen is the most until 1631, when the structure was support the plan. Dale is sceptical devoted mother in the whole bird completed about as it now stands, exthat Farr can be as personally disinkingdom? Even the tame turkey terested as the supporters of the idea employs the most intricate and interesting dancing steps in his court-ing, and has other qualities it pays us should be, but he is half persuaded by Niel's great faith in human nature. many little touches, diaries, private The plans materialize rapidly, and to watch. And as for the English

good to hear that: comes under obligations to Farr, and which he had discovered on the Island. Lady Newton tells us that it was the Farr wishes to start a business con-intelligent of birds, living always on is an old archeologist—he, of course, it ing, of course, "them." which first induced her to write this by threstening to withdraw his finanhistory of a house, and she modestly
cial support. There is a terrific strugto trust the lord of creation. • • • beautiful daughter. There is a Sweda,
to trust the lord of creation. • • • beautiful daughter. hopes it may find at least a small circle of readers who will not be bored by
it. But the work has been so well done

die to result of a shattered that he
to the sparrow in the destruction of leged to laugh at his heart's content.

have been active enough since 1901 to detail.

hearted admirers of Niel, after hesitathuman way that brings them hu- ing between spending their energies in the scheme, take up the work where their friend left it. The characters are are told of it as illustrated in the lives | real and likeable; even Farr is not the Sir Peter Legh's account of his travel- Mora were not wholly selfish, but his conventional villain. His interests in business instincts were strongest in him. The story is interesting and well

> By Royal Dixon, (Frederick A. Stokes Company.) \$1.60 met.

> Among many good things in this

SEVEN NEW VOLUMES NOW READY IN

A HISTORY OF FRANCE. 2 Vols. By Jean Victor Duruy. ANCIENT LAW. By Sir Henry Maine.

MEMOIRS OF CARDINAL DE RETZ. 2 Vols. By Himself. SELECTED PAPERS on PHILOSOPHY. By William James. TARAS BULBA, with "St. John's Eve." and OTHER TALES. By Nicolai V. Gogol. (The right size for a soldier's pack.)

Cloth, 60e net; Leather, \$1.25 met. Politage extra. All bookstores.

Send for a Complete Catalogue of 741 of the World's Greatest Books at the Lowest Prices.

E. P. DUTTON & CO., 681 Fifth Ave., New York.

The Greatest of all War Books

Bp Henri Barbusse (Le Feu)

A MARYELOUS TRANSLATION \$1.00 Not. Postage Extra. All Bookstore E. P. DUTTON & CO., 681 5th Ave., N. Y.

The Argonaut says: -"The best the war

By DONALD HANKEY For Sale Everywhere P. DUTTON & CO., 681 Fifth Av., N. Y.

CASH FOR BOOKS Highest prices paid for BOOKS. AUTOGRAPHS, PRINTS or other literary properties. Cash down; prompt removal.

New York's Largest Book Store 42 Broadway. Phone Broad 3900

THOMS & ERON, tas.

Peoples tumultuous. Feverish countrysides, Latin-America, sun-struck and mad."

The Mexican Problem

C. W. BARRON Business men inter-

ested in oil development anywhere, should read Mr. Barron's fascinating story of the marcelous Tampico oil

Those holding land in Mexico will be interested in his analysts of the land question.

Mr. Barran has been studying Mexico for 40 years. His conclusions are not based on snap judgment.

With Map and Illustrations \$1.00 net

Houghton Millin Co., Publishers

At all Booksellers or THE WALL STREET JOURNAL 44 Breed St., New York

\$4441444444444444444444444444444444

noxious insects or as a promoter of sanitation. • • He is in the bird world what the dog is in the animal world • • the best friend of

The beautiful color pictures and the many good photographs enhance the hould be without:

THE WOLF-CUB. By Patrick and Terence Casey. (Little, Brown & Co.) \$1.40.

Here is all the material for an ex-cellent romance. But the authors have made a far better story than they appear capable of writing. With the lawless mountain life of Spain for background, with gypsies and bullfighters and brigands and their enemiss of the Guardia Civil, with a cun-ning and desperate bandolero, a dark, rips maid of the Zincali and a hidalgo's beautiful daughter for leading figures, they have woven a clever and exciting plot, compact of stirring elements of romance and planned and proportioned with no little skill. But there their merit ends. The book is weakly and tritely written, without power or color or character, so that one has need of some critical sense to recognize how essentially good is the story thus ineptly told. The spirit indeed is willing but the style is weak; it is not always even grammatical. And yet the story is there. The reader who is insensitive to bad writ-

ing and avid of passionate adventure, who has imagination enough to supplement for himself in brighter colors the scenes and people which the printed narrative labors to convey may still find means of onjoyment. The story would make an admirabe moving picture. On the screen all its merits would be intensified and its failure in the art of words would matter not at all.

WANTED A TORTOISE SHELL. By Peter Blundell, (John Lane

"This bird celebrity is perhaps the he is writing for a reader who is at daring heroide who exclaims. On the subsequent change of leaders, to the most abused and misunderstood friend least fairly intelligent. The plet of dog has torn your trans," to be interported by a violent blush from the present year, the influence of Tamand shortcomings have been greatly its custard pis humor; the characters overestimated. • • • He is the most wanted a tortolse/shell. In India there embarrassed Don't mention it"—mean not complimentary to the Hali. intimate terms with man. It is this as necessary to a farcical story as a

EVERY WORD TRUE

Private

After two years in Hell he is back with a smile and has written the greatest of all war books on life in the trenches. For anxious fathers and mothers of American boys.

. At all Bookstores. \$1,50 net.

The Bollo-Morrill Company, Publishers

A CRUSADER OF FRANCE

Translated from the French of Captain Ferdinand Belmont. Introduction by Henry Bordeaux.

Miss Katharine Lee Bates in a letter to the publisher says: "I have read every word of 'A Crusader of France,' moved to the depths of my soul by its polgnant spiritual beauty. It gives, too, the clearest picture of actual war conditions, day after day, and week after week, and month after month, that I have seen."

Price, Net, \$1.50. E. P. DUTTON & CO., 681 Fifth Ave., N. Y.

and the Young Professor. Needless warrant the addition of eight chapters ing, and has other qualities it pays us to watch. And as for the English sparrow, now considered much in the light of a parish among birds, it is them. But after all the author of a paint brush is wielded with the re- lowed by an upheaval in the wigner. nonsense book should remember that quired result. Melita is the type of of the political tribesmen, with its "This bird celebrity is perhaps the he is writing for a reader who is at daring heroine who exclaims. "Oh, the subsequent change of leaders, to the

Tammany's History.

The author pictures the dawn and day of the Murphy regime, touching on the investigation of the life insurance companies, and giving the his-

Why Our Soldiers Wait For Clothing

Soldiers can not march without shoes or resist pneumonia in a winter of recordbreaking severity without warm clothing and sufficient shelter.

The testimony of General Sharpe before the Senate's Investigation Committee on the shortage of clothing, supplies for the soldiers, appeals to many an editor in the United States as a most remarkable and instructive account of "the circumlocutory routine and the general red tapery" of the operations of the War Department.

On the other hand the net result of a canvass among members of Congress and officials of the Government Departments made by the New York Times brings that journal "to the conclusion that the Government has accomplished a vast amount of work considering the short time elapsed since it began to make preparations in earnest; that there had been some serious mistakes and delays, but that the activity of the War Department is at last distinctly on the upgrade."

In THE LITERARY DIGEST for January 12th, one of the most enlightening articles in this unusually good number deals with the Congressional investigation of the War Department and voices the editorial opinion of the country upon the disclosures. Many illuminating details are presented, and the article is one that will hold the interest of every reader.

Other important topics in this issue of THE DIGEST are:

America For No Makeshift Peace

Presenting the Results of a Careful Editorial Examination of Newspaper Opinion From All Over the United States Upon the Latest German Peace Propaganda

The Brewers' Campaign of Righteousness A Peace Offer Distrusted by Both Sides Germany's Last Colony Gone The Coming Great Aerial Combat Launching a Ship Upside Down **Edible Reptiles** Resurrected Art of William Blake Admonishing a Petted Darling Shall We Close the Churches? The Income Tax-An Urgent Duty, A Glorious Privilege

Will the Government Keep the Railroads? Teutons Squabbling Over Poland How You Can Save and Substitute (Prepared by the U. S. Food Administration) Medical Music The Crewless Raider The Historian In the Movies What the War Did To Harry Lauder

Mr. Sunday's Slang Book How Railroad Stockholders Will Fare

Many Striking Illustrations, Including the Best Cartoons

· The People Who Read "The Digest"

The best test of any periodical is the class of its readers. Character in a magazine or a newspaper

attracts men and women of standing and judgment as inevitably as a flower draws the bee, and for the same reason. It suits their taste. Glance around you in the train, on the street-cars, in hotel lobbies, wherever your fellow humans congregate, and note

the people who read THE LITERARY DIGEST. They are the best type. They buy "The Digest" because they know it is accurate, impartial, wholesome, comprehensive, and up-to-date, because they can take it home to their children with confidence. and because it covers the world's news as no other periodical does. Are you with them?

January 12th Number on Sale To-day—All News-dealers—10 Cents



FUNK & WAGNALLS COMPANY (Publishers of the Famous NEW Standard Dictionary), NEW YORK